

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

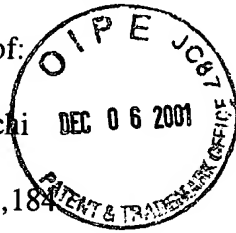
In re Application of:

Kazutoshi Haraguchi

Serial No.: 09/864,184

Filed: May 25, 2001

For: ORGANIC/INORGANIC HYBRID HYDROGEL AND MANUFACTURING METHOD
THEREFOR



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DEC 10 2001
TC 1700

Group Art Unit: 1714

Examiner: Not yet assigned

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 6, 2001

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

Documents AA through AC were cited in the European Search Report dated October 5, 2001. A copy of the search report is also attached.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application,

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and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donald W. Hanson', written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosures: PTO-1449, Search Report; 3 References